



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

January 2, 2019

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***Probation and Parole Systems Marked by High Stakes, Missed Opportunities.*** By Jake Horowitz, et al. Pew Trusts. Sep. 2018. 24 p.

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2018/09/probation-and-parole-systems-marked-by-high-stakes-missed-opportunities>

In the national conversation about criminal justice reform, prison population is most often what is discussed. This report is about the larger piece of the puzzle: community supervision. “Nationwide, 4.5 million people are on probation or parole—twice the incarcerated population.... [This means] 1 in 55 US adults (nearly 2%) are on probation or parole.” Similar to the prison population, “African Americans make up 30% of those on community supervision but just 13% of the population, and more than three-quarters of the 4.5 million Americans on probation or parole were convicted of nonviolent offenses.”

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Life in Rural America 2018.* National Public Radio, et al. Oct. 2018. 57 p.**

[https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2018/10/NPR-RWJF-Harvard-Rural-Poll-Report\\_FINAL\\_10-15-18\\_-FINAL-updated1130.pdf](https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2018/10/NPR-RWJF-Harvard-Rural-Poll-Report_FINAL_10-15-18_-FINAL-updated1130.pdf)

“A survey of 1,300 adults living in rural America finds they are preoccupied by economic issues and the ongoing opioid epidemic—and most think the government can help solve these problems.... [A]lmost half know someone struggling with addiction, almost half of those with adult kids have watched them move away and a majority think better public schools would help their local economies.... According to survey results, 25% of respondents named drug addiction or abuse as the biggest problem facing their community. Economic concerns were listed as the biggest problem by 21% of respondents.... [W]hile opioid misuse is often thought to impact just a few rural states, the poll found that concerns about opioid use were widespread across all of rural America.” ([Journalist's Resource](#), Oct. 17, 2018).

## EDUCATION

***How Does For-Profit College Attendance Affect Student Loans, Defaults and Labor Market Outcomes?* By Luis Armona, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Sep. 2018. 83 p.**

<https://www.nber.org/papers/w25042.pdf> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California Research Bureau)

“Students who attend four-year, for-profit colleges take out one more federal loan on average than their public school counterparts and borrow at least \$3,300 more.... Despite that extra money, these students are 11% less likely to be employed than students in public schools. They also [work more] and earn less. What’s more, among four-year students, attending a for-profit college increases the likelihood that a student loan borrower will default by about 11 percentage points, the study found.... The study doesn’t pinpoint why exactly for-profit colleges have worse outcomes, but other research offers some insight. A [recent study suggests](#) that a drive for profit may motivate some of these schools to slash spending on instruction in favor of spending more on marketing and sales. ([MarketWatch](#), Sep. 19, 2018).

***Migration, Displacement and Education: Building Bridges, Not Walls.* Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO, 2019. Dec. 2018. 435 p.**

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002658/265866E.pdf>

Threat of deportation keeps many undocumented students from attending school in the United States. Some communities with significant numbers of undocumented students have seen higher levels of absenteeism within the last two years. This report discusses deportation and other barriers that may keep migrant students from attending school. The authors suggest that “migration can be a bridge to improve the education status of children and youth from low and middle income countries,” and that these students could be part of a nation’s “community-building, civic participation and leadership.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***The Global Gender Gap Report 2018.* World Economic Forum. Dec. 2018. 367 p.**

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-gender-gap-report-2018>

“Overall gender disparity across politics, work, health and education improved by less than 0.1 percent, meaning it’ll take 108 years to reach parity. The economic opportunity gap—based on participation, pay and advancement in the workforce—remains the area that’ll take the longest time to close.... Political empowerment is where the gender gap remains the widest, according to the findings. The U.S. fell to the 98th spot for the measure, sliding from 66th in 2006.... A new sector for gender imbalance is emerging, according to the report. The gap in artificial intelligence is three times larger than in other industries,

according to an analysis conducted by WEF and LinkedIn. Women with AI skills are more likely to be employed as data analysts and information managers, while men tend to land in more lucrative and senior positions such as engineering heads and chief executives.” ([Bloomberg](#), Dec. 17, 2018).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***The Devaluation of Assets in Black Neighborhoods—The Case of Residential Property.*** By Andre Perry, et al. Brookings Institute. Nov. 27, 2018. 28 p.

Interactive report: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/devaluation-of-assets-in-black-neighborhoods/>

MSNBC interview with study author: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJxXYpmfjwA&>

“Decades of racist policies put in place by governments and private companies—[segregation](#), [redlining](#), [deed restrictions](#), [exclusionary zoning](#), the [deliberate hollowing out of urban cores](#)—have had the net effect of eroding the quality of life in many majority-black neighborhoods nationwide.... [Study authors] wanted to isolate the effects of racism alone [on home prices]—to peel off all the other explanatory variables until they could ‘detect how much racism depletes wealth from black homeowners.’ ... In the end, they were left with one number: \$48,000. That’s the amount the average home in a majority-black neighborhood is undervalued.... That’s the ‘cost of racial bias,’ as the authors put it, ‘amounting to \$156 billion in cumulative losses’ accruing to black homeowners.” ([Washington Post](#), Nov. 28, 2018).

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

***Social Science Partnerships for the Common Good.*** Social Science Research Council’s To Secure Knowledge Task Force. 2018. 39 p.

<https://www.ssrc.org/to-secure-knowledge/>

“For generations, the social sciences—fields such as psychology and economics, which illuminate how people behave, spend money, live healthfully, and hurt or help each other—were primarily conducted and funded through universities and government agencies. That meant the sum of America’s knowledge about human behavior was available to most researchers and to the government. But, according to [this report], as more and more social scientists join tech companies, any accumulated data about human behavior is used not to solve societal problems—say, encouraging vaccinations, or protecting citizens from falling for conspiracy theories—but rather to pump up companies’ profits.” The authors recommend that policymakers design new models for public-private research funding that bring more social science research into the public sector, and encourage expansion of big data sharing. ([Pacific Standard](#), Sep. 18, 2018).

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Water Year 2018: Hot and Dry Conditions Return.*** California Department of Water Resources. Sep. 2018. 12 p.

<https://water.ca.gov/News/News-Releases/2018/Oct-18/Water-Year-2018>

California’s new water year officially started October 1. “Water Year 2018” was released at the same time, which summarizes the precipitation conditions over the past year and reports on the current status of the state’s water resources and infrastructure. “Despite below-average precipitation in water year 2018, most California reservoirs are storing near- or above-average levels of water heading into the 2019 water year.” Unfortunately, groundwater levels did not see much recovery during the first half of the water year, and prolonged dry conditions in the Colorado Basin have left Lake Powell and Lake Mead depleted and in risk of triggering a shortage declaration based on Lake Mead elevations.

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